WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Reduction of Airfares in Delhi-Srinagar Sector

2781. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have declared Srinagar airport as an international airport in order to enhance the connectivity of Srinagar with the rest of world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Airlines and the private domestic airlines have done nothing to promote Srinagar and are charging exhorbitant airfares;

(c) if so, the reasons for such high airfare on Delhi-Srinagar Sector; and

(d) whether Government would consider reducing the airfares in this sector to promote tourism and introduce APEX fares and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Srinagar airport has been declared as an International airport by the Government of India on 11th March, 2005.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indian Airlines already offers APEX tares for flights on Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi Sector.

Signing of Air Service Agreement with US

2782. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether air service agreement between India and the United States is expected to be signed in the month of April, 2005;